



Applications DUE **Sunday, December 11th!**

Introducing the 2023 Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA):

FYLA's mission is to inspire young leaders through building healthy relationships, exploring leadership development, and actively engaging them within their communities.

Apply now if you are interested in developing your leadership skills in communication, personal development, public speaking, and interviewing while building connections with your peers and adults!

Please send your completed application in an email to Cal Walton at:

Cal.walton@myflfamilies.com

A letter of recommendation must be submitted with the application
(i.e., teacher, counselor, independent living specialist, foster parent, etc.)

Application responses will be provided by early January 2023.

Thank you for taking the time to apply!



Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA) 2023 Mentee Application



MENTEE APPLICATION DUE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

Application responses will be provided by early January 2023.

Send completed applications to

Cal.Walton@myflfamilies.com

Thank you for taking the time to apply!

Before applying to be a mentee for FYLA, please read the information below.

The application is to be completed by the youth. Please do not complete this application on a youth's behalf.

Part 1: FYLA Information

Mission:

To inspire young leaders through building healthy relationships, exploring leadership development, and actively engaging within their communities.

Background:

The Florida Youth Leadership Academy (FYLA) kicked off in December 2007 in Orlando, Florida. What was initiated as a professional development project under the direction of Florida's Department of Children and Families Child Welfare Leadership Program and Connected by 25, grew into a statewide mentorship and leadership program for youth involved in the child welfare system?

Specifics:

FYLA is for eligible youth involved with Florida's child welfare system. The FYLA group travels three to four times throughout the program year to engage in educational and leadership activities, including touring the State Capitol, Supreme Court, and college campuses across Florida. Throughout the program year, we encourage you and your mentor to meet regularly in your local areas to focus on specific learning objectives, including networking, public speaking, resume-building, and interviewing skills as well as meeting with child welfare leadership. Typically, each FYLA class concludes with a graduation ceremony during the annual Child and Family Well-Being Summit.

Part 2: Mentee Expectations and Eligibility

1. To be eligible to apply for FYLA, you must:

- a) Be currently (at the submission of application) under the supervision of a CBC lead agency or sub-contractor.
- b) Be in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade and attend a high-school program.
- c) Be able to sustain school performance while participating in this program.
- d) Be at least 16 years old and not yet 19 years old by September 1, 2023.
- e) Have shown that you would benefit from leadership training.
- f) Not have been adjudicated delinquent with any felonies within the past six months.
- g) Agree to abide by our Code of Conduct.



2. To graduate from FYLA:

- a) Attend all trips as specified
- b) Complete a student portfolio
- c) Meet with your mentor on the off months
- d) Demonstrate understanding of the program content
- e) Have no disciplinary issues during the program period
- f) Actively engage in the program activities during the trips
- g) Be recommended for successful completion of the program

Participation in the program requires many scheduled activities. The expectation is that you can attend all the trips and be fully engaged in the activity, which is typically all day from 8 am to 10 pm. We understand that emergencies may come up throughout the year, however, we expect that you communicate with your mentor when you are not able to attend a trip. We ask you to get in contact with them at least two weeks before the trip to confirm attendance.

The Department expects each mentee to be actively engaged in all activities. This includes limiting time spent on cell phones. The Department fully understands that you may need to take a phone call or may have an outside commitment that prohibits you from attending a certain trip. We also expect you to meet up with your mentor on the off months.

Group Trips:

- **1st trip – Ocala Campground – February 23-26, 2023**
- **2nd trip – Tallahassee – April 20-23, 2023**
- **3rd trip – Miami – July 6-9, 2023**
- **4th trip – Orlando (Summit) – September TBD, 20223**

Please make arrangements to attend as all trips are mandatory unless approved by the FYLA coordinator.

Off-Months:

Mentors and mentees will be responsible for meeting face-to-face during the off months when we're not meeting for the group trips. You and your mentor will be responsible for completing the activities for that particular off-month theme. The themes of the off months will be discussed as a group at the kickoff trip.



Part 3: Application

General Information: (All fields are ***required***, please write legibly).

Date of Application:	
First and Last Name:	
Preferred Name (Optional):	
Date of Birth:	
Age:	
Grade:	
School Name:	
Gender:	
Email:	
Home/Cell Phone Number:	
Current Address (please indicate in you're in a group home!)	
City, State, Zip:	
County of Residence:	
Place of employment	
Work hours	

Caregiver Name:	
Caregiver Phone Number:	
Emergency Contact Name and Relationship:	
Emergency Contact Number:	
Case Manager Name:	
Case Manager Agency:	
Case Manager On-Call Number:	
Case Manager Email:	



Application Questions:

Please answer **all the following questions as completely as possible.**

1. Did someone recommend you to FYLA? If yes, what is that person's name and what is your relationship with them?
2. How would you define a leader?
3. Why do you want to participate in FYLA?
4. What qualities do you possess as a leader now?



Please complete the following question in essay format. On a separate piece of paper, typed or written, answer the following questions and attach them to your application.

How would describe yourself (personal characteristics, values, or qualities)? Also, what are your hobbies or interests (Ex.- swimming, certain sports, reading, hiking, animals, gardening, music, cooking, library, movies, shopping, etc.)?

Describe a challenging experience in your life and ways that you tried or are trying to overcome the challenge.

Who do you identify as a leader in your own life and why do you view them as a leader? (Note: this person may be a family member, teacher, social worker, friend, or someone else important to you).



Declaration of Commitment:

Please read this thoroughly and carefully before signing. Both the caregiver and youth should each initial on the line to the left of each statement.

_____ I give my informed consent and permission for me/the youth to participate in the Florida Youth Leadership Academy and its related activities.

_____ I agree that I/the youth will follow all leadership program guidelines and understand that any violation on the youth's part may result in suspension and/or termination from Florida Youth Leadership Academy.

_____ I release the Florida Youth Leadership Academy of all liability of injury, death, or other damages to me, my child, family, estate, heirs, or assigns that may result from his/her participation in the program, including but not limited to transportation, and hold harmless any Florida Youth Leadership Academy program staff, or other representatives, both collectively and individually, of any injury, physical or emotional, other than where gross negligence has been determined.

_____ I understand that basic information about the youth will be anonymously (without names) shared with a prospective mentor(s) to aid in determining a suitable match. Once a possible mentor/mentee match is determined, the youth's identity and other relevant information will be shared with the mentor to the extent it aids in facilitating a successful match.

By signing below, I attest to the truthfulness of all information listed on this application and agree to all the above terms and conditions. I understand the requirements of the Florida Youth Leadership Academy and if I am selected, I will devote the time and energy necessary to complete the program. I also understand that I will be required to attend all of the program events listed above and acknowledge that if I miss an event, I may be asked to withdraw from the program. I also understand the above commitments and agree to adhere to them in signing this application.

Youth's Signature

Date

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Date



Code of Conduct:

- As a member of the Florida Youth Leadership Academy, FYLA expects you to:
- Attend all scheduled trips and meet up with your mentor on off-months.
- Abide by the curfew set for **10:00 PM**. This will ensure safety, security, and our energy for the following day.
- Do not go into other people’s rooms for your safety at any point during the trips. If this is broken, it will cause automatic termination from the program.
- Use encouraging and respectful remarks that will empower each other; listen to sponsors or conference leaders; stay in the designated/assigned areas of the event; speak your mind, be respectful, meet new people, learn, teach, have fun, and represent youth to the fullest and best of your ability.
- Follow all the rules at the facility that is accommodating us through lodging, training, workshops, and/or activities. The Department expects you to show respect towards all individuals, guests, visitors, and the property itself.
- Not display disruptive behavior, horseplay, and harass or tease others; not possess or use alcohol or drugs, vandalize, or steal property, express violent behavior, or engage in sexual activity with other youth while on our trips. Any such behaviors can be grounds for legal activity and removal from the program.
- Dress appropriately for all trips, which includes, but is not limited to, wearing tops that cover the chest, midriff, and back, and wearing jeans or pants, excluding sweatpants and excessively ripped jeans at certain events.
- Refrain from engaging in a dating relationship with another mentee/mentor during the program duration.

*Dress codes will change depending on the activities of each trip (for example, shorts are allowed for camping, but would not be allowed for meeting with leadership).

I, _____, agree to this code and take full responsibility of my actions and the consequences that go with them.

Youth’s Signature

Date

Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature

Date



Permission Form (to be filled out by parent/guardian):

Name of Youth: _____ DOB: _____

I, _____ (parent/guardian), give my permission for the above-named youth to participate in the Florida Department of Children and Families' Florida Youth Leadership Academy Program.

1. I give permission to allow him/her to participate in all activities, except for (if N/A, please write):

2. I give permission for the youth to receive minor first aid and medications except for (if N/A, please write):

3. I permit the youth to be treated in emergencies by Chapter 39.407, F.S.

Youth's Doctor's Contact Information	Emergency Contact Information
Name:	Name:
Address:	Address:
Phone Number:	Phone Number:

Youth's Medication(s):		
Medications	Dosage	How Often

*While on the trips, the CBC lead agency, or other assigned adult, will be responsible for meeting with the youth's mentor to ensure medication instructions are provided as well as having the appropriate forms signed and other forms given to the mentor before the trips to ensure medication is properly provided to the youth in the right dosage at the right time.

4. Does the youth require any special accommodations to participate with FYLA?



5. Does the youth have any special dietary restrictions?

6. Please list any allergies he/she has and the type of reaction associated with each allergy (food, insects, seasonal, medication):

7. Youth will share a room with another youth who is a part of FYLA. Is there anything we should consider when matching roommates?

8. Is there any other information that we should know about?

Parent's/Guardian's Name

Date

Parent's/Guardian's Signature

Medicaid Number of Youth

Relationship to Youth



MEDIA RELEASE FORM

Check one Box: Youth is under 18 years old Adult (18 years or older)

I hereby grant the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and its successors and assigns, the absolute and irrevocable right and unrestricted permission to copyright in their own name or other otherwise photographic, audio, or video recordings of _____ (youth), or in which _____ (youth) may be included with others, and to use, reuse, publish, or republish the same in whole or in part for a period of two years from 2022 through 2024.

I hereby release and discharge DCF and its successors and assigns from any and all claims and demands rising out of or in connection with the use of the photographic, audio, or video recordings, including without limitation any and all claims for libel or invasion of privacy for each and every use consistent with this release for usage within the scope of Florida Youth Leadership Academy.

By signing this form, I acknowledge that I have completely read and fully understand the above release and agree to be bound thereby. By signing this release, I understand this permission signifies that photographic, audio, or video recordings of me/my child may be electronically displayed via the Internet or in a public educational setting.

Mentee's Name

Mentee's Signature

The undersigned, being the parent, guardian, or caregiver of the above-named minor, does hereby consent to and join in the above media release.

Name of Parent/Guardian/Caregiver (If minor- under 18 years old)

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Caregiver (if minor- under 18 years old)

Date